

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 386

By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the 483rd Anti Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion on the occasion of their fiftieth annual reunion.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many thousands of our nations finest citizens have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army and in other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces; a number of these are members of our "Greatest Generation," having served in armed combat during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the gallant veterans of the U.S. Army's 483rd Anti Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion will gather together at Henry Horton State Park on June 22 – 24, 2007, to mark their fiftieth annual reunion, renew friendships forged in war, and remember their fallen comrades; and

WHEREAS, the battalion's first reunion took place in May of 1958, with seventeen men and their families in attendance; this year's anniversary also marks the sixty-first anniversary of the return home for most of the battalion's members; and

WHEREAS, the battalion fought at Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theater during World War II, where its members were assigned to protect fighter planes, pilots, runways, and their own installations established after the bloody invasion of the island; and

WHEREAS, the men of the 483rd Anti Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion experienced some of the fiercest fighting of the War, with American forces suffering nearly 7,000 casualties and 19,000 wounded at the tiny volcanic island of Iwo Jima; virtually all 22,000 Japanese forces perished; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Iwo Jima was immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi, a sight the men of the 483rd have never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet during World War II, said, "Among the men who fought at Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."; and

WHEREAS, the courageous and gallant veterans of the 483rd Anti Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion deserve proper recognition for their heroism in the United States Army and in society today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that on the occasion of their fiftieth annual reunion, this General Assembly hereby honors and commends the members of the 483rd Anti Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion for their meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II and acknowledges their sterling courage and commitment to duty during perilous times.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.